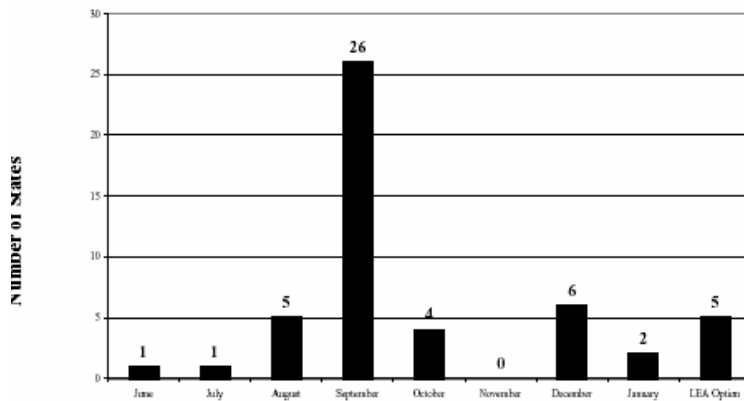


AB 66 (Pavley & Daucher)

Age Appropriate Developmental Kindergarten

States' Entrance Age Policies



37 of 50 states utilize a five-year-old age of enrollment deadline prior to December.

California is one of 6 states that utilize a December five-year-old age of enrollment deadline.

BACKGROUND

Since the 1960's, kindergarten education has increasingly focused on the development of academic skills and less on the socialization of children. This emphasis on academic goals has been reinforced by testing and accountability requirements placed on local educators by the state and federal government. At the same time, kindergarten teachers in California have been teaching a broad age span of children ranging from 4 to 6 years old who have varying learning capacities.

This is why 74% of other states across the country utilize an enrollment age deadline that coincides with the beginning of school. Requiring that students reach the age of five before they enter kindergarten reduces retention rates in kindergarten and first grade and reduces the number of students who need special education.

For more information, please contact Nate Solov,
Office of Assemblymember Fran Pavley:
916-319-2041
nathan.solov@asm.ca.gov

WHAT THE BILL DOES

Current law requires that children in California turn 5 by December 2 to be eligible for kindergarten. This creates a kindergarten learning environment where a four-year-old with a September, October or November birthday is grouped with five and even six-year-olds.

AB 66 would allow school districts to create developmental kindergarten programs for students whose birthday occurs between September 1 and December 2 or for students who are not developmentally ready for the standard kindergarten experience.

Districts could opt-in to this program which would require an age appropriate curriculum developed by the district and credentialed teachers in the classroom. Instead of districts holding children back in kindergarten and having them repeat the same curriculum, this program will allow districts to preemptively work with parents to place younger children in a developmental program tailored to their learning capacity and social maturity.

INTERESTED DISTRICTS

The following districts have expressed an interest in implementing an early childhood education program: Clovis Unified, Corning Union Elementary, Laytonville Unified, Lemoore Union Elementary, Lincoln Unified, Magnolia Elementary, Moorpark Unified, Mt. Shasta Union Elementary, Newhall Elementary, Orcutt Union Elementary, Palermo Union Elementary, Rialto Unified, Surprise Valley Joint Unified, Terra Bella Union Elementary, and Weed Union Elementary School District.